Smoking by children

3278. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent survey has indicated that the children studying in the VI and above grade take to smoking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to prevent the youngsters from smoking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The India Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a school based survey in grades 8-10, estimates that 7.2% of students currently smoke.

Section 6 of the 'The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' prohibit sale of tobacco products to persons below the age of eighteen and restricts sale with a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions. These provisions have come into force from 1.5.2004 and 1.12.2004 respectively. Likewise, Rules relating to Specified warnings required to be printed on all tobacco packs have also been notified and would come into effect on 1.6.2007. These measures would help sensitize the youth about the ill effects of tobacco.

The State Governments, who are the implementing agencies, have been advised to put in place necessary mechanism to bring about greater awareness and to implement the provisions of law.

Health delivery system in hilly areas

3279. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the health delivery system undertaken in the hilly areas of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh, has achieved the desired targets;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide medical insurance to the people in the hilly areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the National Rural Health Mission, all the district of the country with special attention to hilly areas including Himachal Pradesh are eligible for support for Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), fitted with diagnostic facilities, selection and training for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) by relaxation of norms, in addition to various initiatives undertaken for strengthening of health delivery system. These include 406530 ASHAs selected country wide, out of which 7750 ASHAs are in the State of Himachal Pradesh 1512 PHCs are functioning on 24x7 basis out of which 95 are located in Himachal Pradesh. Out of 1304 CHCs selected for upgradation to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), 36 are located in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The State Government have been requested to send proposals for health insurance for BPL families, in pilot districts including hilly areas, under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Upgradation of medical institutions

3280. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTARCHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade the status of 13 medical institutions and to set up six new medical institutions of the level of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details and location of these institutions and hospitals; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it has been decided to set up six new AIIMS like institutions, each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). The estimated cost for